



Double The Numbers

Putting Kentucky's Public Agenda Into Action

Kentucky needs 791,000 bachelor's degree holders by the year 2020 to reach the projected national average in educational attainment. In 2000, we had 402,000. The number of bachelor's degree holders needs to double over the next 14 years to achieve the goals outlined in the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (HB 1).

The first phase of postsecondary reform produced many improvements and laid the foundation for future success. Enrollments soared, research and development funding increased dramatically, the community colleges were consolidated into the new Kentucky Community and Technical College System, adult education became part of the Council, and accountability took center stage with new institutional strategic plans and a revised Public Agenda, *Five Questions—One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People*.

Statewide and institutional performance indicators were created to track our progress, and Kentucky's reform movement gained national prominence for its innovation and leadership.

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As we enter the second phase of reform, one question looms large: "What will it take to achieve our goal?" The Council completed a 2020 projections study to estimate the enrollments and degrees needed to achieve the national average in educational attainment. Undoubtedly, we will need more resources to reach this goal, but we also must do things differently—more efficiently and urgently.

What will it take?

If Kentucky continues to perform at current levels, the Commonwealth will have **580,000** bachelor's degree holders in 2020, falling short of its educational attainment goal by **211,000** degrees. Closing this gap is challenging, but not impossible. The following five-step plan illustrates additional bachelor's degree holders that could be produced by aggressive and purposeful interventions. This scenario assumes all interventions and strategies would be implemented concurrently over the next 14 years.

| Intervention | Strategies to 2020 | Additional Bachelor's Degrees Produced |
|---|--|--|
| STEP 1 Increase postsecondary participation and quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the high school college-going rate from 62% to 74% • Increase the adult college participation rate from 3.6% to 4.5% • Raise the postsecondary system's graduation rate from 43.6% to 56% | 66,000 |
| STEP 2 Improve GED to college transitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase college-going of GED graduates from 19% to 43% • Increase the annual number of GED graduates from 10,000 to 26,000 | 4,000 |
| STEP 3 Funnel more first-time students through KCTCS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve general education credit transfer • Keep KCTCS tuition low • Increase the number of students transferring from KCTCS to four-year universities from 3,100 to 11,334 | 26,000 |
| STEP 4 Raise high school graduation rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance guidance counseling/support services • Improve teacher preparation programs • Increase the high school graduation rate of 9th graders from 72% to 81% | 36,000 |
| STEP 5 Increase migration and economic development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new jobs to attract college-educated, out-of-state residents • Keep college graduates working in Kentucky • Double the number of jobs requiring at least a bachelor's degree | 79,000 |
| Additional bachelor's degree holders Production at current level | | 211,000 |
| 2020 GOAL | | + 580,000 |
| | | 791,000 |

2000

19% of working-age Kentuckians (402,000) held a bachelor's degree or higher, versus the national average of 27%.



2010

246,000 under-graduates need to be enrolled in college.

Kentucky colleges and universities need to award 22,700 bachelor's degrees.

What's the cost?



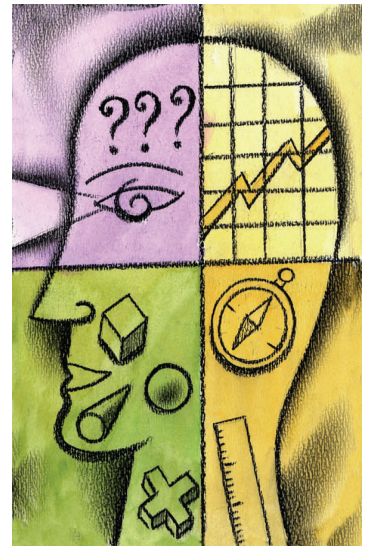
The cost of achieving our educational goals will be significant. We must continue to secure new revenue while making the most of current resources. Over the next year, the Council will develop projections to better understand how much it will cost to double our degree production over the next 14 years. This process will involve a re-assessment of the state's postsecondary education funding policy; refocused efforts on productivity, efficiency, and resource reallocation; an analysis of university facility needs; and the continuation of efforts to better align state appropriations, tuition policy, and financial aid. Linking reform costs, educational outcomes, and benefits will strengthen the case for sustained, long-term funding.

What's the return?

Doubling our numbers will benefit all Kentuckians. If we reach the national average in educational attainment by 2020, **we can expect a cumulative increase of \$5.3 billion in state revenue and \$71 billion in personal income**, according to the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center. Every Kentuckian must realize this simple truth—a bachelor's degree holder on average earns \$1 million more than a high school graduate over a lifetime. The link between an educated citizenry, economic prosperity, and quality of life is undeniable and must be ingrained into Kentucky's culture and future.

If we reach our 2020 goal, Kentucky can expect:

- Higher paying jobs and lower unemployment.
- A stronger tax base and faster economic growth.
- Lower crime rates and health care costs.
- More community service and charitable giving.
- Higher voter turnout and increased civic participation.



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32% of the U.S. working-age population is projected to have at least a bachelor's degree. Kentucky will need 791,000 degree holders to achieve the projected national average.



323,500 under-graduates need to enroll in college—up from 168,900 in 2000.

Kentucky colleges and universities need to award 33,700 bachelor's degrees per year—up from 15,600 in 2000.

What's next?

As we enter the second phase of reform, the Council is accelerating its efforts to put the Public Agenda into action and achieve our House Bill 1 goals. Over the next year, we will initiate numerous discussions around the state to better understand what we need to do differently to “Double the Numbers” by 2020.

Next steps include:

- Establishing aggressive enrollment and degree production goals for 2008 and 2010.
- Re-assessing postsecondary education’s funding policies and aligning state appropriations, tuition, and financial aid.
- Reviewing the accountability system to increase institutional productivity and promote cost efficiencies and resource allocation.
- Generating long-term cost estimates for achieving 2020 goals.
- Conducting a statewide policy scan to identify what’s helping and what’s hindering our progress.
- Researching national and international best practices related to increasing educational attainment.
- Increasing diversity systemwide, including low-income, underprepared, and adult students.



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